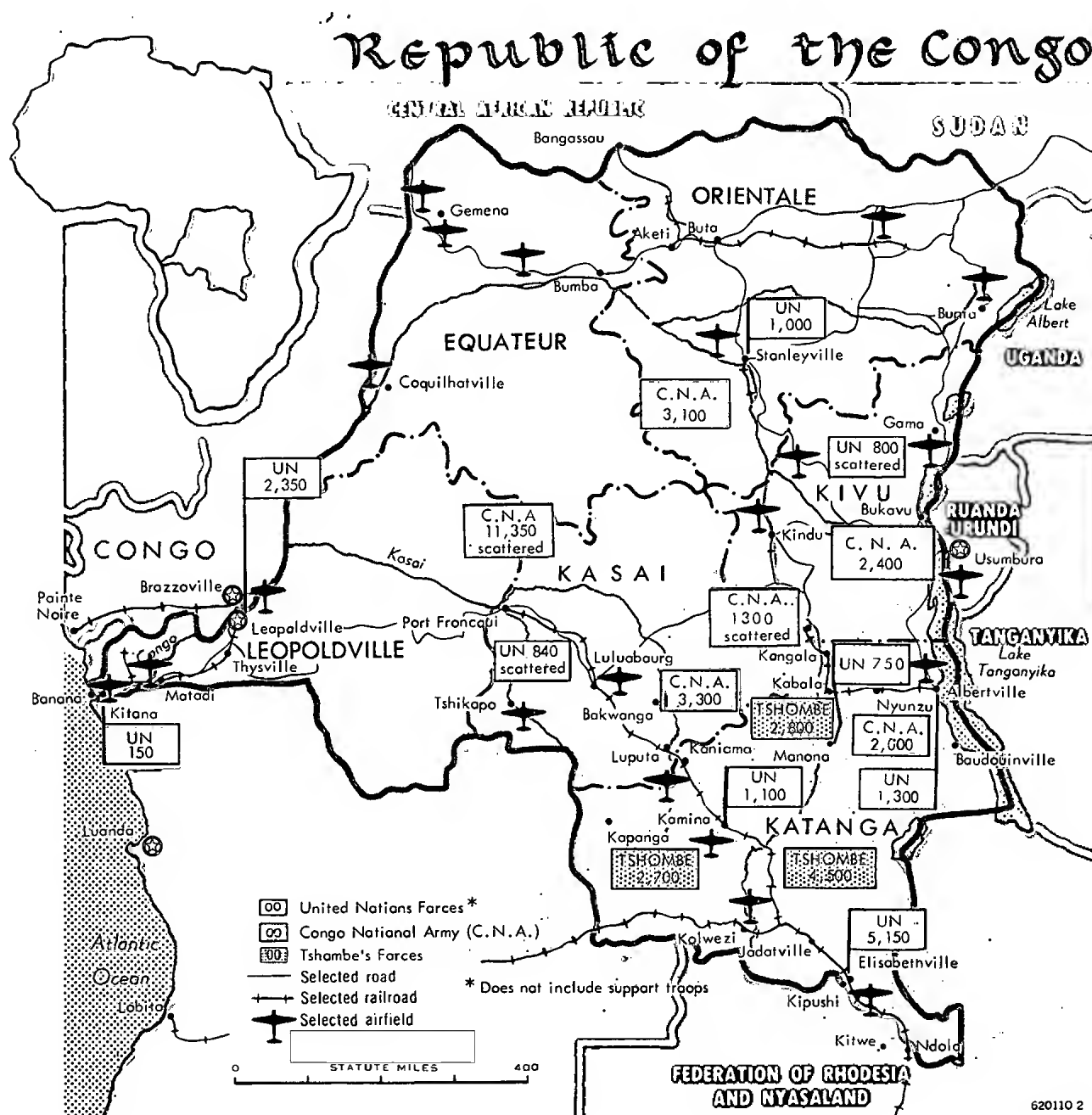


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

15 JAN. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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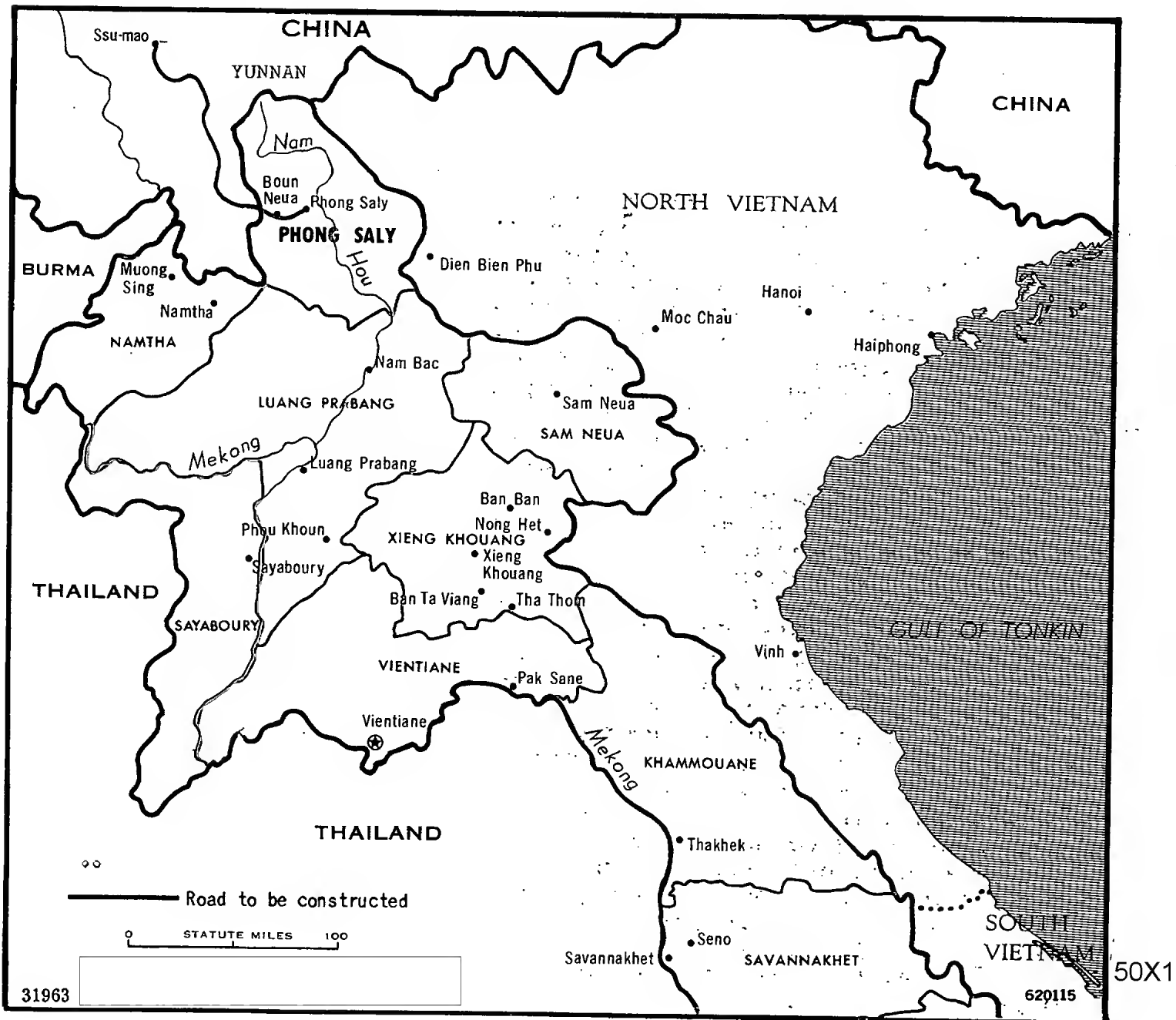
1. Congo

A. The situation in Stanleyville is quiet and under control. Gizenga has thrown in the sponge and is now under house arrest by combined UN and Congo army forces which disarmed his gendarmerie without firing a shot. He has requested a UN plane to bring him to Leopoldville on the 20th. Parliament passed its censure motion this morning by an overwhelming majority.

B. The Central Government, uneasy over possible last ditch radical efforts, has tightened security in Leopoldville and plans a roundup of "brigands and troublemakers."

C. The Katanga assembly, scheduled to consider ratification of the Kitona agreement again today, is reportedly being quietly encouraged by Tshombé to stall.

LAOS



2. Laos

A. Boun Oum has arrived in Geneva. Souphannouvong, stopping off for consultations in Hanoi and a session with Chinese leaders in Peiping, is expected tomorrow. Souvanna awaits word these two are on hand before leaving Paris. The earliest meeting now planned is for tomorrow afternoon,

[REDACTED] Storm warnings are still up that they will declare Souvanna no longer acceptable as head of a new coalition government. B. In Vientiane last week the government continued to broadcast alarmist communiques of large-scale enemy attacks. While minor clashes continue, we have no evidence that the Communists intend to initiate major hostilities at this time.

C. The Chinese are keeping their oar in. Saturday they signed an air agreement with Souvanna's "government" providing for joint civil air routes between the two countries and formalized Souvanna's earlier acceptance of their offer to build a road from China to Phong Saly in northwest Laos where a Communist Chinese consulate general was established last November.

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3. Indonesia

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4. East Germans finally resolve differences over 1962 economic plan.

Egypt already has promised active assistance both at Lagos and in drumming-up pre-conference support.

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B. The Indonesian press today announced (a) five "divisions" of volunteers have assembled in South Celebes; (b) university staff and students have been instructed to register as "volunteers"; (c) the Indonesian civil airline is being made an Air Force auxiliary.

Our initial information indicates the program, adopted only a few days ago, includes sharp capital investment cut-backs. We suspect these funds will be transferred to an increased military budget covering the armed forces expansion underway since last September.

The Defense Minister's broad hint on Saturday of imminent East German conscription fits the pattern, since a conscription decision presumably could not have been made until settlement of the plan hassle.

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5. French-Tunisian Bizerte negotiations face rough going

Talks begin today. Bourgiba is publicly committed to unconditional French withdrawal and Paris now insists it must have emergency re-entry rights. As a further complication, the Algerians are likely to regard any French re-entry privileges as a threat against themselves as well as an embarrassing precedent for Franco-Algerian negotiations.

6. Dominican Republic

There is increasing likelihood that the opposition will demand Echavarria's removal as armed forces chief. His compliance is problematical but he himself has hinted that he expects to be offered a diplomatic post in Germany. His departure at this time could create a dangerous situation and result in disintegration of the fragile unity now prevailing in the armed forces.

NOTES

- A. Ambassador Trimble says we are still in the running with the bloc to sell jet fighters and anti-aircraft guns to Sihanouk. The Prince had naught but good to say for us in his speech Saturday dedicating the "Khmer-American Friendship School". His initial reaction to the planned "defoliant" operation in South Vietnam was mild, although Trimble has not yet had a chance for a full discussion. With fingers crossed, our Saigon Embassy reports even South Vietnamese officials believe Cambodian relations are improving.
- B. Saturday's Pravda carries the overdue Soviet response to Hanoi's 27 October appeal for support from world legislatures in the form of a protest letter from the USSR Supreme Soviet chairmen. Thompson believes the form and tone of the reply suggest the USSR still approaches the Vietnam situation with caution.
- C. The second session of USSR-Iran "friendship" negotiations again ended in complete impasse. Strangely enough, the Soviets want to continue the talks. [redacted]
- D. [redacted] Greece's [redacted] pessimistic over future US defense aid, reportedly has called for a cut in the present level of Greek military expenditures.
- E. The death of Indian Communist Party chief Ghosh gives free play to bitter differences between Moscow and Peiping-oriented factions. His middle-of-the-road leadership permitted at least a facade of unity but now a showdown between the warring factions at next month's party congress seems certain.
- F. Communist China formalized its 1962 economic relations with Albania amidst effusive reaffirmation of its intent to maintain close ties with that country. The announcement comes while Sino-Soviet trade talks are still going on.

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- G. The Finnish presidential election got under way today with Kekkonen the strong favorite.
- H. The Brazilian radio reports the situation tense in Bogota following the government's discovery of a new plot against it. Twenty-five supporters of former President Rojas and several military officers were arrested. We have no official word on this yet.
- I. The second installment of Soviet naval equipment for Castro is under way. A gunboat towed by a Soviet merchant ship is in the North Atlantic en route to Cuba. Another Soviet merchantman carrying torpedo boats and towing a small naval patrol vessel is already approaching Caribbean waters.
- J. During a long and "highly disturbing" talk with Ambassador Elbrick Portuguese Foreign Minister Nogueira expressed dismay over US policy towards Lisbon and sharply criticized our stand on the Angola question. He later told Elbrick Portugal would at least make a lengthy statement at the outset of the UN debate justifying its position on Angola.

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE